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# NASA Procedural Requirements

**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY****NPR 2210.1C**Effective Date: August  
11, 2010Expiration Date:  
August 11, 2015[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Request Notification of Change

(NASA Only)

## Subject: Release of NASA Software

**Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Technologist**[| TOC](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chapter1](#) | [Chapter2](#) | [Chapter3](#) | [AppendixA](#) | [AppendixB](#)  
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## Appendix A. Definitions

### A.1 Software Terminology

A.1.1 "Click Wrap Agreement" is a form of Software Usage Agreement used when providing the software over the Internet that requires a user to read and accept the terms of a usage agreement before the user may download, install, or use the software.

A.1.2 "Computer Database" means a collection of data in a form capable of being processed by a computer through the use of a computer program performing the function of storing, manipulating, or formatting.

A.1.3 "Computer Programs" means a set of statements or instructions to be used directly or indirectly in a computer in order to bring about a certain result.

A.1.4 "Licensable Software" means software for which the U.S. Government owns a domestic or foreign copyright, or a patent application or issued patent claiming the software or the underlying process or method implemented by the software.

A.1.5 "New Technology Representative" is a NASA civil servant designated to administer the "New Technology" or "Patent Rights" clause in procurement contracts and to receive disclosures by the contractor of subject inventions and reportable items made under the contract. A full description of the New Technology Representative's responsibilities is set forth in 1827.305-370 of the NASA FAR Supplement.

A.1.6 "Object Code" or "Executable Code" means machine language; that programming language which is directly readable and executable by a computer.

A.1.7 "Open Source Software" means software where the recipient is free to use the

software for any purpose, to make copies of the software and to distribute the copies without payment of royalties, to modify the software and to distribute the modified software without payment of royalties, to access and use the source code of the software, and to combine the software with other software in accordance with Open Source licenses/agreements. Open Source Software is a subcategory of Publicly Releasable software.

A.1.8 "Open Source Software Development" means either: (1) the incorporation of external Open Source Software into software developed by or for NASA; or (2) the original development by or for NASA of software intended for Open Source release.

A.1.9 "Publicly Releasable Software" means software for which a recommendation of Public Release has been made to the Center SRA by the Center Office or Project that has the responsibility for the software, with concurrence by the Center official designated by the Center Director, the Center Patent or IP Counsel, and the CEA, or their designees, and any other applicable officials required herein. Publicly Releasable Software may or may not be protected by a copyright or patent.

A.1.10 "NASA Center 508 Coordinator" is that person at a Center responsible for ensuring the Center's activities, which include software release, are compliant with The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which amended Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The NASA Center 508 Coordinators are identified at [www.nasa.gov/accessibility/](http://www.nasa.gov/accessibility/).

A.1.11 "Software" is defined in NPD 7120.4. In accordance with NPD 7120.4, Software as used in this NPR for purpose of the reporting, review, and assessment requirements of this NPR includes computer programs in both source and object code but does not include computer databases, software documentation, or technical papers unless they disclose source code. Applicable software documentation may be released with the software.

A.1.12 "Software Accepted (As-Built) Baseline" is the baseline established after the software has been accepted by the intended NASA user. Software Accepted (As-Built) Baseline contains updated versions of the items in the Software Product Baseline, with corrections for nonconformance found during the acceptance process.

A.1.13 "Software Code Baseline" is the baseline established at the end of the software implementation phase. During the software implementation phase, the software is coded and unit tested. All documentation is produced in quasi-final form, including internal code documentation. At the end of the phase, all required products are ready for delivery, subject to modification during integration and testing. It includes:

- a. Software detailed design specification.
- b. Build and test plans.
- c. The code itself.
- d. Code level documentation.
- e. Users manuals.
- f. Test procedures for the integration and test phase.
- g. Data needed for operation of the software.

A.1.14 "Software Documentation" means documentation and data pertaining to the development and operation of software and that explains the capabilities of the software or provides operating instructions for using the software to obtain the desired results. Software Documentation may be provided as owner's manuals, user's manuals, installation instructions, operating instructions, and other similar items. Software Documentation may include design details, algorithms, processes, procedures, rules, flow charts, formulae, and related information that would enable particular NASA software, or functional equivalents thereof, to be reproduced or created. Premature release of such information may jeopardize intellectual property protection and commercialization of the software to which it relates. Thus, it is advisable that such information not be released unless the Center Patent or IP Counsel has approved the software for release.

A.1.15 "Software Innovator" means a person who designs and creates software and includes individuals contributing to the concept expressed by the software (i.e., the developers of the underlying functional method or process that is implemented by the software) as well as those individuals involved in coding the actual software.

A.1.16 "Software Product Baseline" is the baseline established at the completion of the Integration and Test Phase. Software Product Baseline is ready for acquirer acceptance testing and delivery. It includes, in addition to the updated contents of the Software Code Baseline, the following:

- a. The tested code.
- b. Final versions of all products and documents.

A.1.17 "Software Release Record" is the form of documentation by which the release of NASA software is recorded. A Software Release Record contains the recipient's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address and the date of transfer, name, and version of software transferred.

A.1.18 "Software Usage Agreement" (SUA) is the legal document issued by NASA that defines the terms and conditions of release. A SUA is signed or otherwise agreed to by the recipient to allow the recipient to receive the requested software.

A.1.19 "Source Code" means a representation of object code in a human readable programming language such as BASIC, FORTRAN, C++, Ada, JAVA, and SQL.

## **A.2 Release Terminology**

A.2.1 The release categories identified in paragraphs A.2.2 through A.2.6 constitute a hierarchy from least to most restrictive. Once a particular release category has been approved, software may be released under that category or under any of the more restrictive release categories. See Chapter 3 for specific release restrictions associated with the release options defined below.

A.2.2 "Approved for Public Release" - This release category is the broadest release category possible and may be approved only if Software Accepted (As-Built) Baseline has been categorized as Publicly Releasable Software as defined in paragraph A.1.9.

A.2.3 "Approved for Open Source Release" - Open Source Software is a subcategory of Publicly Releasable Software. This release category may be approved only if software has been designated as Open Source Software as defined in paragraph A.1.7 or has

been developed under an Open Source Software Development as defined in paragraph A.1.8.

A.2.4 "Approved for U.S. and Foreign Release" - This release category authorizes what is essentially a U.S. Release, as defined in paragraph A.2.5, where release can be also be made to foreign persons, as defined at 22 CFR 120.16.

A.2.5 "Approved for U.S. Release Only" - This release category authorizes the release of Software Accepted (As-Built) Baseline for use by U.S. persons only. It does not remove Export Control Program restrictions.

A.2.6 "Approved for U.S. Government Purpose Release" - This large, but restrictive, release category includes the following five subcategories.

A.2.6.1 "Approved for Beta Release" - A limited release of the Software Code Baseline for Government purposes of acquiring evaluation comments and feedback.

A.2.6.2 "Approved for Project Release" - Any release of the Software Product Baseline or the Software Accepted (As-Built) Baseline to be used on behalf of the U.S. Government. A project Release is appropriate in the following situations:

- a. For use under U.S. Government contracts or grants;
- b. In the United States for use under a Space Act agreement, cooperative project, exchange program, or other agreement between the U.S. Government and another organization; or
- c. For use by a foreign organization if determined by NASA to be required to implement an international cooperative project established by NASA in an international agreement with the foreign cooperating or sponsoring agency.

A.2.6.3 "Approved for Developmental Release" - A release of the Software Product Baseline specifically for further development on behalf of the Government and not including operational use.

A.2.6.4 "Approved for Interagency Release" - A release of any software for use by another U.S. Government agency.

A.2.6.5 "Approved for NASA Release" - A release of any software between NASA Centers.

A.2.7 "Unrestricted Release" - The unrestricted access to, or distribution of, software, including electronic transmission, to an individual or organization outside NASA or its contractors or grantees, without an appropriate SUA or release record. This type of release is not allowed by Agency policy.

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